

The following claims are presented for examination:

1. **(currently amended)** A method comprising:
receiving a first plurality of protocol data units at a first input, wherein all of said first plurality of protocol data units are *en route* to a first congestible device;
maintaining at a protocol-data-unit excisor a first queue **[[of]] for said first plurality of** protocol data units ~~**en route to a first congestible device;**~~
receiving at said protocol-data-unit excisor a flow control signal that indicates whether said first congestible device is ready to receive one or more of said protocol data units from said first queue; and
selectively dropping, at said protocol-data-unit excisor, one or more of said protocol data units based on a first metric of said first queue.
 2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said protocol-data-unit excisor decides whether to drop a protocol data unit based on Random Early Detection.
 3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said indication is conveyed using back-pressure flow control.
 4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said indication is conveyed using the Pause frame procedure of IEEE 802.3.
 5. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a second plurality of protocol data units at a second input, wherein all of said second plurality of protocol data units are *en route* to a second congestible device;
maintaining at said protocol-data-unit excisor a second queue **[[of]] for said for said second plurality of** protocol data units ~~**en route to a second congestible device;**~~
receiving at said protocol-data-unit excisor a flow control signal that indicates whether said second congestible device is ready to receive one or more of said protocol data units from said second queue; and
selectively dropping, at said protocol-data-unit excisor, one or more of said protocol data units based on a second metric of said second queue.
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6. (currently amended) A protocol-data-unit excisor comprising:
a first input for receiving a first plurality of protocol data units, wherein all of said first plurality of protocol data units are *en route* to a first congestible device;

a first queue for storing ~~one or more~~ **said first plurality of** protocol data units ~~en route to a first congestible device;~~

a first receiver for receiving a flow control signal that indicates whether said first congestible device is ready to receive one or more of said protocol data units from said first queue; and

a processor for selectively dropping one or more of said protocol data units based on a metric of said first queue.

7. (previously presented) The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 6 wherein said indication is conveyed using back-pressure flow control.

8. (previously presented) The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 6 wherein said indication is conveyed using the Pause frame procedure of IEEE 802.3.

9. (previously presented) The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 6 wherein said protocol-data-unit excisor decides whether to drop a protocol data unit based on Random Early Detection.

10. (currently amended) The protocol-data-unit excisor of claim 6 further comprising:

a second input for receiving a second plurality of protocol data units, wherein all of said second plurality of protocol data units are en route to a second congestible device;

a second queue for storing ~~one or more~~ **said second plurality of** protocol data units ~~en route to a second congestible device;~~ and

a second receiver for receiving a flow control signal that indicates whether said second congestible device is ready to receive one or more of said protocol data units from said second queue;

wherein said processor is also for selectively dropping one or more of said protocol data units based on a metric of said second queue.